

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

JANUARY 15, 1970

VOL. 33, No. 3

8 SHEVAT, 5730

BEN ACHBAR HEADS "BURN THE MORTGAGE" DRIVE



THIS IS "YOUR" JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

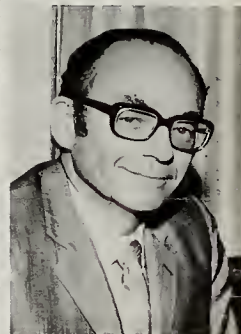
This multi-function building at Rideau and Chapel Streets contains extensive facilities for Jewish education, for health and physical education, for cultural activities of all kinds and for youth. The complex houses the Jewish Community

Centre, Congregation Beth Shalom and the Central Branch of the Hillel Academy. The building fund campaign now being mounted seeks to pay off the debt remaining on the community centre and school facilities here and in the west end.

The well-known and popular Chairman of the Jewish Community Centre's Health and Physical Education Committee has been named General Chairman of the \$400,000. city-wide campaign to "Burn the Mortgage", according to an announcement by Hyman Soloway, Q.C., President of the organization.

In that capacity, Ben Achbar will head a team of volunteer workers which will seek the support of the entire community next month in order to get rid of the capital debt remaining on the community centre and school portions of the Chapel St. building and the school wing of the Agudath Israel Synagogue on Coldrey Ave.

The present appeal for funds is not new but simply the last chapter in a saga of community planning and development which goes back some twenty-seven years. Although time has taken its toll, the vast majority of contributors and their families can trace their giving to an unbroken record of annual subscriptions dating back to 1943.



Ben Achbar

While this continuity represents the most important element in the current drive, campaign planners point out that help must also be forthcoming from new families who have arrived during the past few years and from the younger men who have now established themselves in the business and professional life of the city.

The \$400,000. objective is the difference between the \$2,000,000. spent on building and equipping the educational, cultural and recreational complexes and the total obtained by way of subscriptions, legacies, grants and the sale of older facilities. It includes provision for interest until the principal is fully paid six years from now.

Pledges to the campaign are payable in six annual instalments beginning with 1970 and extending through 1975. When divided by six, the \$400,000. goal becomes just under \$67,000. per year. This is a realistic and realizable goal in the opinion of campaign leaders and should not impose any hardship on subscribers. When approached, the prospective donor is going to be asked to give as much as he can each year for a period of six years.

Mr. Achbar wants to avoid the expense of large dinners, preferring instead to concentrate on small home parlour meetings and person-to-person solicitations. He believes that this approach will be welcomed and he is confident that the results will prove him right.

contact Mr. Achbar or Mr. Hoch. Mr. Achbar is now recruiting workers and building his campaign organization. Anyone who would like to help is asked to bring at the Jewish Community Centre.

Diane Loeb Soloist At Civic Symphony

Diane Loeb, mezzo-soprano will be the guest soloist at the Second Concert of the Ottawa Civic Symphony on Thursday, January 22 at 8:30 p.m., in the High School of Commerce. Dirk Keetbaas Jr. will conduct the program of ballet and opera music.

Miss Loeb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Loeb, has an M.A. in Musicology from the University of Toronto. She has spent the last three summers studying under Nadia Boulanger and Gerard Souzay at the Ecole de Musique, Fontainebleau, France.

The "Chaseneh in Shtetl" Takes Place Sunday Night: There'll Be Singing and Dancing and Merrymaking!

The hilarious musical comedy entitled "A Shtetl Wedding" will be presented at the Jewish Community Centre on Sunday night at 8:00 by the Yiddish Drama Group of the Jewish People's School, Montreal, under the joint auspices of the Centre and the Labour Zionist Council.

The thoroughly charming production of Z. Shneier's play, in a renewed version by M. Chusid, is directed by Dora Wasserman, with music by Eli Rubinstein and choreography by Bluma Stelow. Each of its eighteen performances have been acclaimed by audiences in Montreal and Toronto.

"Shtetl Wedding" is not so much a play as an evening of sweet nostalgia. By hanging a series of songs and dances upon a skeletal plot, it seeks to recreate the spirit of the East European shtetl or village. And the whole is so simply and artfully



Dora Wasserman

constructed as to disarm the most discriminating viewer.

The cast of characters includes quite naturally, an eager bride

and groom, their somewhat hesitant parents, a flock of aunts and uncles, friends of the young couple and a pair of badchens who could be classed as village jesters or instigators.

The badchens keep the fires of romance and marital intrigue burning, they dance and sing and joke and are generally the life of the party. They set the mood for the wedding and act as narrators.

There are over fifty people in the company, including an eight-piece orchestra. You do not have to speak or understand Yiddish to enjoy the flavour of the play or its delightful music.

Tickets are still available and may be purchased from any member of the Labour Zionist Council or from the Jewish Community Centre. To reserve yours, call 232-7306. And please come early. Seats are on a first come, first served basis.

Symphonic Pops Orchestra Rehearses Sunday Morning

Armand Weisbord, conductor of the J. C. C. Symphonic Pops Orchestra is pleased with the fledgling group and has high hopes for it.

Anyone who was in the vicinity of the Adult Lounge last Sunday morning will agree. Thirteen musicians had gathered for the first rehearsal of the year and under Mr. Weisbord's direction, the sounds coming from that room were extremely pleasing to the ear.

In addition to the conductor and his wife Margaret, who is concertmaster, the players were Mrs. Bertram Loeb, Martin K. Levinson, Philip Segal, Dr. Jack Wilner, Arnold Haltrecht, Merle

Haltrecht, Mrs. Margaret Anderson, June Anderson, Frank Schubert and Fred Shainbaum. Dr. David Malek, Dr. Lyon Pearlman, Albert Rivers and Boda Bospodetnick have attended previous rehearsals but were unable to be there Sunday morning.

The entire group is expected for the next rehearsal this Sunday morning at 10:30. The switch to Sunday morning was made to accommodate people who would like to play but have other commitments during the week.

Players in all sections of the orchestra are invited. The group particularly needs people who play the cello, oboe, French horn,

trombone, trumpet and double bass.

Mr. Weisbord's musical career began with graduation with distinction from the Brussels Conservatory of Music and winning of the Canler and Kreizler Prizes for solo violin performance. For many years, he played in the Brussels Philharmonic under such world-famous musicians as Bruno Walter, Maurice Ravel, Igor Stravinsky, Serge Prokofiev and Richard Strauss.

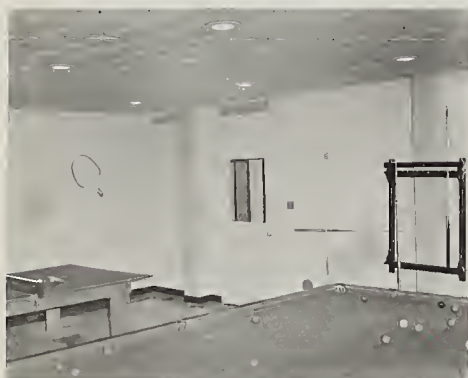
He has been concertmaster for most of the city's former symphony orchestras and for twenty-five years, was director of music at the Chateau Laurier.



Orchestra Conductor Armand Weisbord



AT YOUR DISPOSAL . . . The Psychedelic Lounge and Games Room at the Jewish Community Centre. Come and enjoy.



FOR MEN . . . FOR WOMEN . . . The best physical education facilities in the city. May we have the pleasure of your company? Come and try before you buy!



Choral Group Enthusiasm High

Monday night's opening meeting of the reconstituted Jewish Community Centre Choral Group was a delight. It was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Weiner and was characterized by its warmth, spirit and enthusiasm. Lou Weiner presided.

Musicologist David Galbraith who will direct the group explained that he emphasizes breath control, vocal techniques and singing dynamics. The repertoire will be completely flexible and will include Jewish music of all kinds, multi-lingual works ranging from the classical through musical comedy and even some of the popular tunes sung by folk groups today.

During the course of the evening, the group sang some of the selections they know and Mr. Galbraith was visibly impressed by what he heard. He sang several numbers himself, Al Shapiro also sang and a good time was had by all. Mrs. Bertha Gurofsky accompanied.

Prominent among those present were Laz Mirsky, Louella Molot, Claire Metrick, Goldie Abramson, Phil and Flora Dubinsky, Tillie Levine, Naomi Lowi, Betty Altman, Norma Lazear, Dorothy Raichman, Werner Bauer, Leon Leekie and Leslie Stoch. Flu and vacations kept a number of others away.

The first full rehearsal will take place next Monday, January 19 at 8:15 at the Jewish Com-

munity Centre. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to be there. Young people in particular will be most welcome at this and subsequent sessions every Monday night.



Peter Perel

Heads Histadrut

Peter Perel, a leading member of the Labour Zionist movement in Ottawa was elected President of the Histadrut League of Ottawa at its annual meeting. Serving with him on the executive are Louis Goldstein, 1st Vice-President; Israel Shalom, 2nd Vice-President; Harry Small, Treasurer and A. Rudy, Secretary.

Invitation to Use Malca Pass Library

The Malca Pass Memorial Library of the Agudath Israel Congregation contains a comprehensive selection of Judaica as well as an excellent selection of the latest in fiction by Jewish authors.

The children's and young adult sections contain a wide variety of books of Judaica and general content in both fiction and non-fiction.

The library is open Monday and Thursday from 12:00 to 5:00; and Sunday from 10:00 to 1:00. Residents of the west end are invited to avail themselves of these fine facilities at 1400 Coldrey Ave.

Mrs. M. Poplove is Chairman and Mrs. G. Lauterman is Librarian.



Mrs. John Greenberg

Yom Atzmaut Chairman Named

The appointment of Mrs. John Greenberg as Chairman of the Ottawa Observance of Israel's 22nd Anniversary has been announced jointly by Michael Greenberg, President, Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir and David Zelikovitz, Chairman, United Zionist Council of Ottawa. She succeeds Mrs. Herbert Gosewich.

The major community celebration will take place on Sunday evening, May 10. Saturday, May 9 is being designated as Anniversary Sabbath when special prayers will be recited in all Ottawa Synagogues.

Mrs. Greenberg is also planning a number of other events during the week preceding the anniversary which will involve the schools, youth and the adult community.

The annual Yom Atzmaut Celebration is sponsored jointly by the Vaad, the Zionist Council and all of their constituent organizations. Mrs. Greenberg has called the first meeting of representatives of all these organizations for Wednesday, January 28 at 8:00 o'clock at the Jewish Community Centre to initiate detailed planning.



HERE'S ONE FROM THE COMMUNITY ARCHIVES . . .

It appears that fund-raising meetings in the early '30's were not much different than they are today. Hugo Lavendel who brought us this picture says that it was taken at a Keren Hayesod (United Palestine Appeal) Campaign Meeting on a Sunday afternoon in the early 1930's in front of the old Talmud Torah Building at 171 George St. The guest speaker

was Leib Yoffe, head of the Keren Hayesod at the time, shown seated in the front row between Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Freiman. We recognize many of the other faces in the photograph but a few escape us. If you can identify the people at date the event, send us a note at 151 Chapel St. Incidentally, that's Hugo at the very front.